

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: actanimals@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 12:16 PM
To: JudTestimony
Cc: actanimals
Subject: Testimony for 2 bills 4/1/15 : SUPPORT of HB 6187 (provides a court advocate for animals) and SUPPORT of SB 1128 (eliminates use of accelerated rehab in cases of animal abuse)

March 31, 2015

Dear Co-Chair Coleman, Co-Chair Tong, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Please accept this testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 6187**, which would establish a process for appointing an advocate for an animal that is the subject of a criminal court proceeding, and in **SUPPORT of SB 1128**, which would prevent persons charged with committing animal abuse from using accelerated rehabilitation.

I am a long time CT resident and tax payer who has been involved with animal advocacy for 30+ years, so these bills are very important to me and I URGE you to PLEASE SUPPORT them.

HB 6187 will help to facilitate animal cruelty prosecutions by ensuring appropriate representation for the victims. Acts of animal cruelty are linked to many other types of crimes, including violence against people, property, and drug and other offenses.

SB 1128 will help ensure that violence toward animals is taken **seriously** and promotes appropriately **stronger** penalties for these crimes in cases where people are responsible for causing animals to suffer. In the past, very few animal cruelty cases have been prosecuted in CT and it is time to change that now.

Respectfully,

Sue Kautz RN
Connecticut State Council Member of the Humane Society of the United States
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